Texas A & M University Corpus Christi College of Nursing and Health Sciences
NURS 5326 Advanced Physiology with Pathophysiological Applications
Syllabus Spring 2020-Section W02

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Credits: 3 semester hours (3.0)

Course Description: The study of normal physiology and pathologic mechanism of disease across the lifespan to provide a foundation for clinical assessment, decision making, and patient health management in an advanced practice nursing role.

Learning Objectives: The graduate nursing student, through physiological and pathophysiological study of subcellular mechanisms, cells, tissues and organ systems should be able to:

1. Develop critical thinking skills using the physiological parameters that determine cellular and organ system function and dysfunction.

2. Develop skills necessary to make objective clinical decisions based on the best available evidence from peer reviewed research to direct complex health care decisions in nursing practice.

3. Interpret current research in the field of advanced physiology and pathophysiology to improve healthcare for patients.

4. Integrate theoretical and research-based physiology and pathophysiology concepts into nursing practice.

5. Develop a pathophysiological rationale for advanced level nursing management of acute and chronic conditions.

6. Develop a physiological basis for healthcare for diverse ethnic and cultural populations across the life span utilizing advanced knowledge of common disorders.
7. Participate in the creation of a positive learning experiences using newest technological advances.

8. Evaluate her/his own progress toward achievement of long-term goals within the science of nursing.

9. Develop a more sophisticated practice paradigm based on physiological and pathophysiological concepts.

10. Demonstrate responsibility for class preparation, student group assignments, and active participation in on-line discussion forums.

**Lecture Location:** TAMUCC online Courses [http://islandonline.tamucc.edu](http://islandonline.tamucc.edu)

**Syllabus and Course Schedule:** Please completely review this syllabus and course schedule carefully. If you have any questions or concerns, you must email the course faculty through Blackboard immediately to resolve the issue within the first week of the semester. If no concerns are raised, it will be assumed that all students have read and understand the content and expectations.

**Class Time:** NURS 5326 is web-based and the principals of distance learning apply for all students. Topics for the week are documented on the class schedule according to date and content. All assignments are due on the day indicated in the Course Schedule. **Late work is not accepted unless prior approval granted by faculty.**

**Teaching and Learning Methods:** Course objectives will be met through individual reading, review, and study of required text assignments, recommended resources, and both formal and informal exchange of concepts with classmates, colleagues, and course faculty. Weekly topics will include utilization of critical thinking skills, decision making, and writing skills required of a graduate student.

Teaching methods will include online asynchronous discussion via discussion board posts, independent study of texts, library, weekly web-ex discussions, other professional resources, analysis and synthesis of clinical applications, and the assignments listed in the course. Faculty will provide guidance and consultation as needed. However, the student is responsible for identification of their learning needs, self-directed study, and demonstration of course objectives.

**Course Requirements and Grading Evaluation methods:**

1. Examinations (5) 60%
2. Group Assignments (2) 20%
3. Participation in Weekly Online Discussion Boards 20%

**Course Grade Components:**

1. **Course Examinations:** Each test will be made up of multiple-choice and true/false questions. These questions will be written and focused from the course texts, case studies, unit content, and discussion posts (Anatomy, physiology, pathogenesis, pathophysiology, and current evidence-based etiology, and treatment options covered in the course).
Critical thinking skills will be required to select the correct answers. **Students must achieve an average of 75% or higher on the course exams to successfully pass this course.** Once an average of 75% in exams is achieved, the grades for the group assignments, weekly discussion posts, and WebEx meetings are averaged in to determine your final grade. ***Exam and assignment due dates are noted on your course schedule.***

****Exams will be available for 24 hours 12pm noon-12pm noon only. Be aware that your instructor will not be available from 8 pm to 7 am if difficulties are encountered during those hours. **Examity is the College of Nursing & Health Sciences proctor for all courses.**

**Secured Proctored Exam Policies:** All exams in this course will need to be taken with Secured Test Proctoring.

1. Please register with Examity. There is a link in Blackboard.
2. Before each exam an appointment for testing will need to be made and the student is responsible for the fees. Please contact the instructor if you have internet problems during the exam etc. Examity may charge you a second testing fee for you to reschedule. Your instructor can usually work with Examity to waive the additional fees.
3. The exam will be taken on Blackboard.
4. No student may use notes, books, or handouts during the exams. No hats. You will be allowed to use a white board which must be completely cleaned and shown to the Examity Proctor prior to the end of the session.
5. The Secure Testing Policy is considered part of this syllabus and may be found as a separate document under the “Information” tab in Blackboard.
6. Make-up exams will not be permitted to maintain integrity of the exams. Students are advised that there is ample time to take the tests when scheduled (90 minutes).

2. **Group Assignments:** Student groups for assignments will be randomly created via Blackboard at the beginning of the course. One group paper and one group power point presentation are scheduled during the semester. Group assignments are worth 20 % of the final course grade. Each member of a student group will receive the same grade on each assignment from the instructor. However, feedback from your peers will be taken into consideration when grades are assigned. Equal participation in the work of the assignments is expected from all students. Each group will have a number assigned which is found within the Communication icon under Discussions. Students will work in small groups to evaluate each posted assignment, collaborate in researching the problem and differential diagnoses, and turn in the assignments before the due date and time of 2359. Students will use the group didactic discussion group and “google docs” when working on the group case study assignments. **One student will be selected by members of each group to turn in the group’s assignment once everyone in the group views and agrees with the final version presented.** No one student of the group will be made
responsible for editing and formatting the final paper or power point slides. Group assignments may be turned in early if the group desires, but grading will not begin until after the due date.

The course instructor may review the group discussion area. Students are expected to consistently participate with other members of the group and will receive a separate grade for this activity based on instructor grading and their peer review. The final grade will be at the discretion of the instructor.

3. Participation in Weekly Discussion Board Topics: Participation in weekly discussion boards will amount to 20% of the final grade. A minimum of two posts on two separate days are required weekly for satisfactory credit (1 initial and 1 reply or 2 replies). The initial posting (assigned weekly) is due by each Thursday at 2359 and the response posts are due by Sunday at 2359 of each week. All posts must be scholarly writing with in-text citations and references in APA format. Each post is expected to average around 250 words. All posts must contribute to the knowledge and learning of the group. For most of the discussion board posts, an initial and response post using the template is expected for organization of content. The template is found under the “Information Tab”. Response postings must be substantive and expand upon the initial discussion post (agreeing or disagreeing, personal experience only, or posting a couple sentences without references will not be counted as a student post). Posts must be written using information beyond the text book as everyone in the class has a text book to read. The Discussion Post Grading Rubric is also under the “Information tab” within this course. Participation in the didactic discussions is required and will be graded as instructor time permits. Test questions will likely include weekly discussion content. Therefore, participation is important. To earn the full credit (exemplary) for each discussion post, the student must participate at a higher level than minimum requirement. Please see the grading rubric criteria located under the “Information tab” (IE: two posts are required, and three posts must be made for “exemplary” credit under engagement-1 initial and 2 responses or 3 responses).

4. Weekly WebEx Meetings: Each week on Thursday at 6 pm (except for exam dates), a WebEx will be held with the instructor to review content for the week and allow an opportunity for students to ask questions related to the material covered or course questions. The meetings will be recorded for those who cannot attend each meeting.

****The weekly WebEx meetings will utilize an iClicker Reef Application for your phone to answer content questions as a group and increase engagement, achievement, and satisfaction. Participation in the weekly WebEx will no way impact your grade in this course. ****

5. As with most graduate courses, superior performance on course content can only be achieved through independent efforts. Required readings provide a general framework for
understanding topics relevant to this course. However, required readings are insufficient to establish expertise on any one topic. Therefore, students are expected to review unit materials and read additional material before completing most assignments. Course content sometimes promotes exchange of differing or alternative information during class discussion. Because it is assumed students are prepared for discussions, any student contributions will be considered “knowledgeable” discourse on a given subject by demonstrating a breadth of reading as the foundation for ideas and opinions.

6. Extra credit will not be given in this course outside of a bonus question “double jeopardy” on each exam which is worth 3 points.

Grading:

The college of nursing letter grading scales for all programs consists of the following:

A: 90-100
B: 83-89
C: 75-82
D: 70-74
F: 69 and below.

Please consult the University Catalog for explanation of University grading policies. Graduate students must maintain a 3.0 GPA on a 4-point scale.

Required Textbooks:


   (If you have the 6th Edition do not feel obligated to purchase the 7th).


****Please consider all texts as incomplete reference sources as it takes several years from writing to publication. Therefore, you are expected to use these texts as your primary sources of information but will be expected to supplement your work by utilizing other recent sources to fulfill the assignments for the identified content areas. Using the textbook only for discussion posts is not acceptable. Using only one source of information on a weekly basis (UpToDate. etc) is not acceptable either ****.
Communication: Communication between students and faculty should take place by email or messages within Blackboard. It is expected that all students and faculty check their Blackboard email at least once every 48 hours (except over Holidays and weekends). If an email is sent requiring a response, that response should be sent within 48 hours of receipt of the original email. This is an expectation of both students and faculty. **If a student has an emergent concern, please text message or phone the instructor on the cell number listed above. Please identify yourself as the instructor does not have student cell phone numbers. Please be cognizant of the time and avoid text messages or phone calls after 5pm.**

POLICIES:

1. **Evaluation Input from Students:** The faculty of the College of Nursing and Health Sciences places great value on evaluative input from students. Evaluation of courses, instructors and clinical facilities provides the College with important data which is used to strengthen the program. Data is analyzed as to trends and themes and is important to curriculum and sequencing decisions. All evaluations for courses posted are online. The online mechanism allows us the opportunity to tabulate and store information and analyze trends within the curriculum. Please be assured that this information is secure and not released until after grades are submitted. No names are available to faculty. To garner some reliability and validity, the College must have representative data from the student population. That representation, based on the literature, has been set at 70%. **The College is anticipating that students will thoughtfully participate in the evaluation process which will assist the faculty with the growth of the program (such as adding weekly WebEx meetings). A link to evaluations will be available on Blackboard near the end of the semester. Thank you in advance for your assistance with the evaluation process.**

2. **Academic Integrity and Plagiarism:** University students are expected to conduct themselves in accordance with the highest standards of academic honesty. Academic misconduct for which a student is subject to penalty includes all forms of cheating, such as illicit possession of examinations or examination materials, falsification, forgery, complicity or plagiarism. (Plagiarism is the presentation of the work of another as one’s own work.) In this class, academic misconduct or complicity in an act of academic misconduct on an assignment or test will result in disciplinary action up to and including dismissal from this program. **If any discussion post or assignment is found to be plagiarized the student will receive a zero for that assignment. This will not be negotiable.**

3. **Dropping a Class:** I hope that you never find it necessary to drop this or any other class. However, events can occur making dropping a course necessary or the best decision based on circumstances. Please consult with me, your academic advisor, Dr. Alexandra
Shaw (CONHS), and the Financial Aid Office before you decide to drop this course. Should dropping the course be the best course of action, you must initiate the process to drop the course by going to the Student Services Center and filling out a course drop form. Stopping to attend and participate WILL NOT automatically result in being dropped from the class. See TAMUCC Academic Calendar for specific date requirements.

4. **Classroom/Professional Behavior:** Texas A&M University-Corpus Christi, as an academic community, and requires that each individual respect the needs of others to study and learn in a peaceful atmosphere. Under Article III of the Student Code of Conduct, classroom behavior that interferes with either (a) the instructor’s ability to conduct the class or (b) the ability of other students to profit from the instructional program may be considered a breach of the peace and is subject to disciplinary sanction outlined in article VII of the Student Code of Conduct. Students engaging in unacceptable behavior may be instructed to leave the classroom. This prohibition applies to all instructional forums, including classrooms, electronic classrooms, labs, discussion groups, field trips, clinical settings etc.

5. **Statement of Civility:** Texas A&M University-Corpus Christi has a diverse student population that represents the population of the state. Our goal is to provide you with a high-quality educational experience that is free from repression. You are responsible for following the rules of the University, city, state and federal government. We expect that you will behave in a manner that is dignified, respectful and courteous to all people, regardless of sex, ethnic/racial origin, religious background, sexual orientation or disability. Behaviors that infringe on the rights of another individual will not be tolerated.

6. **Grade Appeals:** As stated in University Procedure 13.02.99.C0.03, Student Grade Appeal Procedures, a student who believes that he or she has not been held to appropriate academic standards as outlined in the class syllabus, equitable evaluation procedures, or appropriate grading, may appeal the final grade given in the course. The burden of proof is upon the student to demonstrate the appropriateness of the appeal. A student with a complaint about a grade is encouraged to first discuss the matter with the instructor. For complete details, including the responsibilities of the parties involved in the process and the number of days allowed for completing the steps in the process, see University Procedure 13.02.99.C0.03, Student Grade Appeal Procedures.

These documents are accessible through the University Rules Web site at
- 13.02.99.C0.03, Student Grade Appeals (http://academicaffairs.tamucc.edu/rules_procedures/assets/13.02.99.c0.03_student_grade_appeals.pdf)
- University Handbook of Rules and Procedures (http://academicaffairs.tamucc.edu/rules_procedures/index.html)
For assistance and/or guidance in the grade appeal process, students may contact the Dean’s office in the college in which the course is taught or the Office of the Provost.

7. **Disabilities Accommodations:** The Americans with Disabilities Act (ADA) is a federal anti-discrimination statute that provides comprehensive civil rights protection for persons with disabilities. Among other things, this legislation requires that all students with disabilities be guaranteed a learning environment that provides for reasonable accommodation of their disabilities. If you believe you have a disability requiring an accommodation, please call or visit Disability Services at (361) 825-5816 in Corpus Christi Hall 116. If you are a returning veteran and are experiencing cognitive and/or physical access issues in the classroom or on campus, please contact the Disability Services office for assistance at (361) 825-5816.

Your instructor will be made aware of any accommodations needed by confidential email from the Disability Services Department. If you have any questions or concerns, do not hesitate to contact your instructor **after** you have contacted Disability Services. Faculty intent is to provide **all students** a learning environment to support success in this course.

8. **Statement of Academic Continuity:** In the event of an unforeseen adverse event, such as a major hurricane and classes could not be held on the campus of Texas A&M University–Corpus Christi. This course would continue utilizing Blackboard and/or email. In addition, the syllabus and class activities may be modified to allow continuation of the course. Ideally, University facilities (i.e., emails, web sites, and Blackboard) will be operational within two days of the closing of the physical campus. However, students need to make certain that the course instructor has a primary and a secondary means of contacting each student. Title IX As part of the Texas A & M Corpus Christi University policy, pregnant students are urged to contact the Title IX office for facilitation of academic issues impacted by pregnancy, delivery and subsequent complications. Contact information: Mr. Samuel Ramirez, Title IX Coordinator or Ms. Rosie Ruiz, Deputy Title IX Coordinator (361-825-5826).

9. **Support Services:** Students are encouraged to seek faculty assistance in accessing University Services, including tutoring, health services, personal counseling, degree counseling, financial aid, learning resources, job/work placement, career guidance, and computer/technical support/instruction. If a student is interested in other support services provided by the University, the student is encouraged by the College of Nursing and Health Sciences and the University to seek these services. These services are free as they are part of your tuition. Do not hesitate to contact faculty to help you access these services.